

Dumont Dunes TRT
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 5, 2008

Bureau of Land Management
Barstow Field Office
Conference Room
2601 Barstow Road
Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6000

1. Call to Order

TRT Chairman Bill Presch called the meeting to order at 10:10 am and led the TRT in a recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Introductions

Members of the TRT, participating BLM staff, and members of the general public introduced themselves:

TRT Members Present:

Dr. William Presch, chairman; California Desert District Advisory Council
Jim Bramham, vice chairman; OHV organizations (via speaker phone)
Randy Banis, secretary; other motorized recreation
Terry Allen, Nevada OHV interests
David Charlton, California Desert District Advisory Council
John Dagleish, Friends of Dumont Dunes (via speaker phone)
Gerry Hillier, San Bernardino County
Ron Schiller, California Desert District Advisory Council
Kathleen Stosuy, California OHV interests
Ed Waldheim, California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission

BLM Staff Present:

Roxie Trost, Manager, Barstow Field Office
Lynnette Elser, Recreation Chief, Barstow Field Office
Lorenzo Encinas, Natural Resource Specialist
Emilio Villegas, Civil Engineer Technician

Members of the General Public Present:

Mike Woods, OHV Representative, Marine Corps Logistics Base
Mike McCrarey, Listing & Recovery Coordinator, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Ventura
(via speaker phone)

TRT Members Absent:

Sheri Davis, commercial filming, California Desert District Advisory Council

B. Agenda

Bill Presch opened the agenda to additions or changes. The agenda was approved by consent.

C. Minutes

Copies of the draft minutes of the TRT's November 17, 2007, meeting were circulated to TRT members. The minutes were approved by consent.

2. Old Business

A. Fringe Toe Lizard Petition Update

Bill Presch presented slides describing the genetic analysis contained within the petition to list as an endangered species the Dumont population of the Fringe Toe Lizard. He also reviewed his current, ongoing studies regarding the range and distribution of the lizard.

Mike McCrarey of the US Fish & Wildlife Service joined the meeting via speaker phone. He stated that the initial 90-day review by the USFWS was very limited in scope and research, whereas the 12-month review that follows is more extensive. The timeline is uncertain as funding levels dictate that court ordered recovery plans are highest priority. There are a range of outcomes possible following the 12-month review.

Gerry Hillier asked if the 12-month decision could be extended if necessary for Dr. Presch to complete, review and publish the findings of his current study. McCrarey responded that there is that possibility but that timelines are controlled by the Washington DC office, and that his office would be willing to receive any helpful materials at any time.

Dr. Presch reported that he has funding for his study for this year, and that the project is contracted through 2010. He estimated that up to twelve months would be necessary to publish the study. He further suggested that there is also a need for data regarding where and when users are active in the Dunes.

B. Dumont Dunes Update

Roxie Trost reported that a restoration grant was used to fund a post & cable fence in the Salt Creek ACEC area to keep Dumont users out of the closed areas. Roxie described the challenges managing the boundaries of the open, limited use, and closed areas. She will embark on a project to better define the OHV area per planning documents.

Roxie reported on her meeting with Paul Postle, Tecopa Fire Chief, to update her on the trash and black water dumping problems. He suggested that the roadside trash situation is getting better, but that the dumpsters in Tecopa are again overflowing. He reported that there were objections within Tecopa to the TRT's suggestion to move the dumpsters to a less accessible location from local citizens who transfer trash to the dumpsters using large vehicles.

Chief Postle told Roxie that the blackwater dumping problem continues to grow. Terry Allen suggested that the problem may be due to malfunctioning black water tank and less to purposeful and illegal dumping. Ed Waldheim and Randy Banis offered support for the provision of tank dumping services so that something can be done proactively.

C. Sperry Wash Route Management

Roxie Trost described the continuing problems with off route travel in Sperry Wash, looking first at providing additional signing. Lynnette Elser suggested that the TRT reach out to user groups to inform them of the importance of staying on route in Sperry Wash in order to avoid an emergency closure action.

Dr. Presch's schedule required him to leave the meeting at 11:50 am, and he passed the gavel to secretary Randy Banis to chair the remainder of the meeting.

D. 2008 Fee Collection Status Report

Lynnette Elser presented copies of the following documents to the TRT: FY 2008 Breakdown of Expenditures through January 19, 2008; FY 2007 Fee Income; FY 2008 Fee Income through January 31, 2008. As of January 31, 2008, the Dumont Dunes account had a balance of \$118,341, and FY 2008 expenses totaled \$367,515. Lynnette explained that it is necessary to finish the fiscal year with a balance in order to cover expenses associated with the start up of the next season.

Lynnette also reported that the previous vendor did not have proper title for the fee collection machines that were sold to the BLM. The machines are in disrepair and the ownership issue is prompting only minor and necessary repairs at this point.

The TRT suggested that a brainstorming session be scheduled for the next meeting regarding improvements in services and fee collection for Fall 2008.

3. New Business

A. Public Comment

Gerry Hillier reported on his meetings with Congressman Howard McKeon's office on behalf of San Bernardino County regarding the Amargosa Wild and Scenic River proposal. He also informed the TRT that an Amargosa area conservancy group is proposing the formation of a four-county task force to coordinate regional management activities via a memorandum of understanding.

Mike Woods suggested that large boundary maps be placed on kiosks at the entrance and at vendor row to better inform visitors of area open to riding. Terry Allen agreed and offered that it might also help with the problems with off route travel in Sperry Wash.

Terry Allen reported that the next Friend of Dumont Dunes cleanup is March 15, 2008.

4. Next Meeting

By consent, the TRT set the following date, time and location for its next public meeting:
Tuesday, April 8, 2008, 10:00 AM
BLM Barstow Field Office Conference Room

5 Adjournment

By consent, the meeting was adjourned at 1:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Banis
Secretary, Dumont Dunes Technical Review Team

Approved on April 8, 2008

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

Next Meeting

By consent, the TRT set the following date, time and location for its next public meeting:
Tuesday, April 8, 2008, 10:00 AM, BLM Barstow Field Office Conference Room.